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UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL LAW
New York, 13-17 March 1995

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

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I. INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

1. By its resolution 48/30 of 9 December 1993, the General Assembly decided that a United Nations congress on public international law would be held within the framework of the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999). In its resolution 49/50 of 9 December 1994, it confirmed that decision and further decided that the Congress would take place in New York from 13 to 17 March 1995, during the year of the celebration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

2. The Congress is organized on the general theme: "Towards the twenty-first century: International law as a language for international relations". Participants will exchange views on the codification, progressive development and implementation of public international law, both in theory and in practice, as well as on its teaching and dissemination.

3. The Congress will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Headquarters site is bounded on the south by 42nd Street, on the north by 48th Street, on the west by what was formerly a part of First Avenue and is known now as United Nations Plaza, and on the east by the East River and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive.

4. The five main structures, all interconnected, comprising the Headquarters are the General Assembly building, which contains, besides the Plenary Hall, a large conference room and four medium-sized meeting rooms; the long, low Conference building parallel to the river, which contains council chambers, conference rooms, lounges and restaurants; the 39-storey skyscraper office building, which houses the Secretariat; the Library building; and the staff cafeteria building. The General Assembly Hall and the council chambers are on the second floor while all the other conference rooms in both buildings are on the concourse level.

II. ADMISSION TO THE CONGRESS

A. Registration

5. All participants other than members of permanent missions to the United Nations and United Nations staff members based at Headquarters are required to comply with registration formalities.

6. Registration desks are situated in the Public Lobby which is accessible from the Visitors' Entrance at 46th Street and United Nations Plaza (First Avenue). They will be open on Sunday, 12 March, from 1 to 5 p.m.; on Monday, 13 March, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Tuesday, 14 March, Wednesday, 15 March and Thursday, 16 March from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Friday, 17 March, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

7. Participants will, upon presentation of their letter of invitation, be issued a special event tag bearing their name. At that time, they will be invited to indicate on a form designed to that effect and to be returned to the

registration officers their name, title and New York address and telephone number.

B. Access to the site of the Congress

8. Participants other than members of permanent missions to the United Nations and United Nations staff members based at Headquarters may only gain access to the site of the Congress through the Visitors' Entrance. The Visitors' Entrance will be open on Monday, 13 March, from 8 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.; on Tuesday, 14 March, from 8.15 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.; on Wednesday, 15 March, from 8.15 a.m. to 6 p.m.; on Thursday, 16 March, from 8.15 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.; and on Friday, 17 March, from 8.15 a.m. to 6 p.m.

9. Special event tags should be displayed visibly upon entering, and at all times while on the premises.

10. The Congress will consist of plenary meetings and of round-table discussions (see A/CONF.176/1, containing the programme of work of the Congress).

11. Plenary meetings will take place in the Plenary Hall, which is located on the second floor of the General Assembly building. Two meetings will be held every day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. Meetings will start punctually at the appointed time.

12. Round-table discussions will take place in conference rooms 5-8, which are located on the concourse level of the General Assembly building, prior to and after plenary meetings. For the time and venue of the round-table discussions, see the programme of work of the Congress (A/CONF.176/1).

C. Access to the Plenary Hall

13. To gain access to the Plenary Hall from the registration area (see para. 6), proceed down the wide corridor in the Public Lobby to the door on the right marked "United Nations Congress on Public International Law". Through that door, the escalator leads to the entrance to the Plenary Hall.

14. A cloakroom is available at the foot of the escalator. The United Nations is not responsible for money, jewellery, negotiable papers and other valuables left in cloakrooms. Such valuables should be removed from articles to be deposited.

D. Access to conference rooms 5-8

15. There are two ways to gain access to conference rooms 5-8 from the Plenary Hall:

(a) Take the escalator outside the Plenary Hall one flight down to street level. At the rear of the escalator, there is a staircase leading to the

concourse level. Conference rooms 5-7 are located straight ahead. Conference room 8 is to the left of the staircase;

(b) When exiting the Plenary Hall, take the wide corridor on the left. At the end of the corridor, take the elevator two floors down. Exit the elevators, go straight ahead, past the Viennese Coffee Bar. Conference room 8 is located on the left, conference rooms 5-7 are straight ahead.

E. Seating arrangements

16. At plenary meetings, moderators and main speakers will occupy the first two rows of the Plenary Hall. Other participants, including members of permanent missions to the United Nations, will be seated on a first-come first-served basis at tables in the Hall, where they will have easy access to microphones. United Nations staff members based at Headquarters as well as registered guests will be directed to seats towards the back and along the sides of the Hall.

17. At round-table meetings, seating will be on a first-come first-served basis.

III. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONGRESS

18. A list of United Nations officials responsible for the organization of the Congress is set out on page 4 of the provisional list of participants (A/CONF.176/INF/1).

IV. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS

A. Interpretation

19. At all plenary meetings of the Congress, statements made in any of the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be interpreted into the other official languages.

20. Round-table discussions will be conducted in one of the six official languages only.

B. Documentation

21. The provisional list of participants, the programme of work of the Congress and the present document will be available in the six official languages. Sets in each of the six languages will be made available to participants at the time of registration. Additional copies may be obtained from the documents distribution booths situated at the back of the Plenary Hall.

22. Texts of the opening and concluding statements as well as the presentations and lectures to be delivered at plenary meetings which are submitted to the Secretariat three days ahead of their date of delivery will be reproduced in

their original version and will be available on the date of delivery at the documents distribution booths in the Plenary Hall.

C. Conduct of proceedings at plenary meetings

23. On each of the five days of the Congress, participants will focus on one of the following topics which are relevant to the main goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law, i.e.:

(a) Monday, 13 March: The principles of international law: theoretical and practical aspects of their promotion and implementation;

(b) Tuesday, 14 March: Means of peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;

(c) Wednesday, 15 March: Conceptual and practical aspects of the codification and progressive development of international law: new developments and priorities;

(d) Thursday, 16 March: New approaches to research, education and training in the field of international law and its wider appreciation;

(e) Friday, 17 March: Towards the twenty-first century: new challenges and expectations.

24. Both morning and afternoon meetings will consist of two parts. During the first part of each morning meeting (to start at 10 a.m.), the moderators will, after a few words of introduction by the Legal Counsel, present the topic of the day from the podium. This presentation will be followed by a series of two or three lectures to be delivered from the rostrum of the Plenary Hall. In order to reserve sufficient time for questions and comments from the floor, the duration of the moderator's presentation will be strictly limited to 20 minutes, as will also the duration of each of the subsequent lectures. After the lectures have been delivered, there will be a half-hour break (approximately between 11.20 and 11.50 a.m.).

25. The second part of each morning meeting, from 11.50 a.m. to 1 p.m., will be devoted to an open discussion. Participants wishing to take part in that discussion will be invited to fill in a form of which they will find copies on their desks at the beginning of each meeting (see the annex to the present document) and to submit the duly filled in forms to the Secretariat before or during the break, so that the selection process can be conducted, during the break, by the moderator assisted by the Secretariat. Participants selected by the moderator will then take the floor (from their seat) and the main speakers will, if they deem it appropriate, have the possibility to recapitulate and briefly answer (also from their seat) questions addressed to them. Statements in the open discussion will be limited to five minutes.

26. The procedure at morning meetings will be followed mutatis mutandis for afternoon meetings (to start at 3 p.m. and with a break approximately between 4.20 and 4.50 p.m.).

27. Meetings will start punctually at the appointed time and all time-limits will be strictly enforced.

D. Conduct of round-table discussions

28. Round-table discussions are expected to have a more limited attendance and to be conducted in a more informal manner, at the moderator's discretion. They are open to all participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Although each moderator is responsible for the organization and the conduct of the proceedings, consideration might be given to the constitution of panels and the holding of an initial panel discussion so as to ensure a pluri-sided approach to the topic under consideration.

E. Publication of the proceedings of the Congress

29. The proceedings of the Congress, including, inter alia, the opening and concluding statements, the presentations of the moderators for plenary meetings and round-table discussions and the lectures of main speakers, as well as the final list of participants will be published in due course as a United Nations publication.

V. DISPLAY OF PRINT AND NON-PRINT MATERIALS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

30. A display of print and non-print materials from 20 publishers in the field of international law and international relations will be held during the Congress. The display will be located on the first floor of the General Assembly building behind the escalator leading to the Plenary Hall, and will be open from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Order forms will be available.

VI. FACILITIES AND SERVICES

A. Answers to public inquiries

31. The Public Inquiries Unit (room GA-057, ext. 3-4475) handles inquiries received by mail, by phone and in person from the general public, as well as from delegations and government offices, businesses, educators, non-governmental organizations, media and others. The staff answers questions and provides information and educational material on the work of the United Nations and on the programmes and agencies of the entire United Nations system.

B. Bookshop

32. Over-the-counter services are available at the United Nations bookshop located in the concourse area of the Public Lobby at the north end of the General Assembly building. In addition to publications by the United Nations and specialized agencies, other publishers are represented on themes addressed by the United Nations. Souvenir postcards, posters and stationery items are also available for sale. The bookshop is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5.15 p.m.

C. Dining-room and cafeteria facilities

Delegates' Dining-Room

33. The Delegates' Dining-Room is located on the fourth floor of the Conference building. The hours of service are from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Participants should make reservations by telephone each morning (ext. 3-7625 or 3-7626). Reservations cannot be held for more than 15 minutes after the appointed time. Daily menus are posted on the bulletin board near the elevator at the entrance to the dining-room.

34. Payment for service should be made in cash or by credit card. Personal cheques are not accepted.

35. Children under 10 years of age cannot be accommodated in the Delegate's Dining-Room. Patrons are not permitted to take photographs. Proper attire is required at all times.

Cafeteria

36. The Cafeteria is located on the first floor, south annex, south side of the Secretariat building. Hours of service are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Friday. Breakfast is served from 8 to 10 a.m.; lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Light snacks, salads and pizza are available from 3 to 9 p.m. Dinner is served from 5 p.m. onwards, and the menu includes daily specials, pasta and dishes from the grill.

Viennese Coffee Bar

37. The Viennese Coffee Bar is located on the concourse level of the General Assembly building. Hours of service are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Public Coffee Shop

38. The Public Coffee Shop is located on the concourse level of the General Assembly building. Hours of service are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., seven days a week.

D. Library

39. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library, which is dedicated to the memory of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, occupies the three-storey building (with another three levels below ground) on the south side of the Headquarters site. The Library is open from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

40. Detailed information on the collections, catalogues, databases and services the Library provides is to be found in the brochure entitled "United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library".

E. Medical Service

41. The Medical Service, located in the Secretariat building (room S-0515, ext. 3-7090) is available for emergency and first-aid treatment. The Medical Service is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. In the event of emergencies occurring at times when the Medical Service is closed, the Security Service could be contacted (ext. 3-6666) for assistance in obtaining the name and location of the nearest hospital emergency room and the name of an ambulance service, if necessary.

F. Newsstand

42. There is a newsstand and confectionery stand in the lobby of the Secretariat building, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

G. Parking

43. No parking facilities are available for participants on the site of the United Nations.

H. Post Office

44. A subbranch of the United States Post Office is located on the concourse level in room S-B1-26 (ext. 3-7353) and is open from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The services provided are the usual postal services, including parcel post, air mail, registered and insured mail, international and domestic money orders, information about postage rates and regulations concerning entry or dispatch of parcels to and from various countries. All mail must bear United Nations stamps in United States denominations. Mail with United Nations stamps affixed may be deposited at the Post Office, the delegates' desk near the north lounge or dropped into the letter chutes in the Secretariat building for collection by messenger and onward dispatch by the Post Office.

I. Sale of publications

45. The United Nations publishes over 400 new publications each year, providing an invaluable source of information on the world's most important issues. Its wide range of publications keeps readers throughout the world up to date with latest developments in the areas of international politics, law, social issues, the environment and economics, as well as provides numerous important reference works and all the official records of the Organization. Microfiche, CD-ROM and databases are available in addition to publications. The United Nations also acts as a distributor for publications by ICJ, UNITAR, UNIDIR, UNIDO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNCRD, INSTRAW, UNEP and UNICRI. Orders for information on United Nations publications can be obtained by contacting: United Nations Publications, Two United Nations Plaza, room DC2-0853, New York, NY, 10017 (telephone: (800) 253-9646; telefax: 963-3489).

J. Security

46. The United Nations Security and Safety Service operates during normal working hours from room C-107 (ext. 3-7635), located on the main level of the Conference building; and thereafter from room C-113 (ext. 3-6666 and 3-6667). In addition to providing security and safety on a 24-hour basis at Headquarters, the Service will, inter alia: (a) liaise with local authority whenever outside emergency assistance (e.g., ambulance, medical, police) is required; and (b) handle lost and found property. During office hours, lost property should be handed over to or claimed from the Pass and Identification Unit (room GA-100, ext. 3-7533). At all other hours this service is provided by the Control Centre (room C-113, ext. 3-6666).

47. Missing special event tags should be reported without delay to the Special Services Unit (room S-0101, ext. 3-7531).

48. Participants are reminded not to leave briefcases or any valuable items unattended anywhere on United Nations premises.

K. Telecommunications services

Telephone

49. The main listed number of the United Nations is 963-1234. Direct calls from outside the United Nations can be made by dialling the exchange 963 (preceded by the area code 1-212, if required) followed by the correct four-digit extension as listed in the information circular or in the United Nations telephone directory. Direct internal calls can be made by dialling the access code "3" followed by the four digits extension.

Telegraph

50. The following communications carriers, which provide telex, cablegram and telefax services for world-wide communications, have their offices situated on the third floor of the Secretariat building:

(a) AT & T Easylink Services (room S-0342, ext. 3-7138);

(b) MCI International, Inc. (room S-0348, ext. 3-7142).

ANNEX

PARTICIPANTS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPEN DISCUSSION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE TOPIC OF THE DAY AFTER THE MID-MORNING AND MID-AFTERNOON BREAKS ARE REQUESTED TO FILL IN THIS FORM AND TO HAND IT OVER TO THE SECRETARIAT BEFORE OR DURING THE BREAK AT THE DESK NEXT TO THE PODIUM BEARING THE SIGN

OPEN DISCUSSION

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Name: _____

Title: _____

Please check the appropriate box:

Question/comment relates to
- ☐ The topic of the day in general
- ☐ The Moderator's presentation
- ☐ The first lecture
- ☐ The second lecture
- ☐ The third lecture

Briefly formulate your question/comment:

If your question/comment is selected, you will be given the floor for a statement (from your seat), strictly limited to 5 minutes.